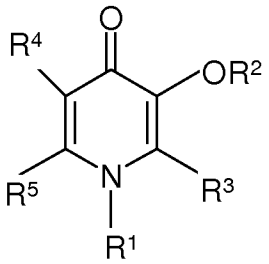
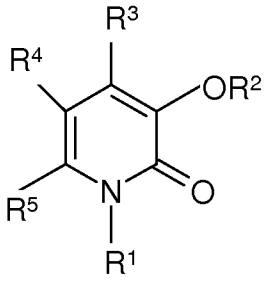
Claims:

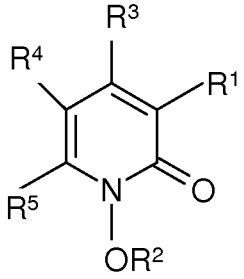
1. **(Currently amended)** A method for treating a skin microcirculatory disorder (SMD) comprising topically administering a hydroxypyridonone of formulae (I-III):



(I)



(II)



(III)

wherein

R^1 represents a (C_1-C_{10})- alkyl, (C_1-C_{10})-alkenyl, (C_1-C_{10})-alkoxy, (C_1-C_{10}) hydroxyalkyl, (C_5-C_{12}) -aralkyl, (C_3-C_{12})-cycloalkyl, (C_1-C_8)- carboalkoxy or (C_1-C_8)- carbamyl, or a (C_{10}-C_{30})-peptide , or a (C_3-C_6) polyol or monosaccharide;

R^2 represents an hydrogen atom or a linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated lo (C_1-C_{22})-acyl, optionally substituted by (C_1-C_8)-alkoxy, carboxy, (C_1-C_8) alkoxycarbonyl, amino, hydroxy, said amino and hydroxy being optionally (C_1-C_{22})-acylated or - alkylated;

R^3, R^4 and R^5, each individually, represent a hydrogen atom, or (C_1-C_{10})-alkyl, (C_1-C_{10})- alkenyl, (C_1-C_{10})-alkoxy, (C_5-C_{12} aryl) alkyl, (C_5-C_{12})-cycloalkyl, (C_1-C_8 carbo)-alkoxy or (C_1-C_8)-carbamyl group;

with the proviso that both R^1 and R^3 are not hydrogen;

or a dermatologically/cosmetically acceptable salt thereof.

2. (**Previously presented**) A method according to claim 1, wherein the skin microcirculatory disorder (SMD) is rosacea.

3. (**Previously presented**) A method according to claim 1, wherein the skin microcirculatory disorder (SMD) is cutaneous vasculitis.

4. (**Previously presented**) A method according to claim 1, wherein the skin microcirculatory disorder (SMD) is actinic purpura.

5. **(Previously presented**) A method according to claim 1, wherein the skin microcirculatory disorder (SMD) is a skin capillaritis.

6.**(Previously presented)** A method according to claim 8, wherein the skin capillaritis is, purpura annularis telangiectodes, contact allergy skin capillaritis, itching purpura, or eczematid-like purpura.

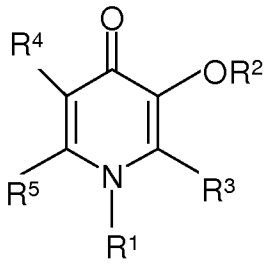
7. **(Cancelled)**

8. (**Withdrawn**) A method according to claim 1, wherein R^1 and R^2 are methyl, R^3 and R^4 are hydrogens.

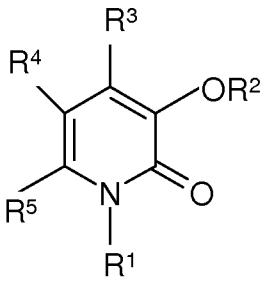
9. (**Withdrawn**) A method according to claim 1, wherein $R^1$and R^2 are ethyl R^3 and R^4 are hydrogens.

10. (**Withdrawn**) A method according to claim 1, wherein R^1 is CH_2CH_2OH, R^2 is methyl or ethyl, and R^3 and R^4 are hydrogens.

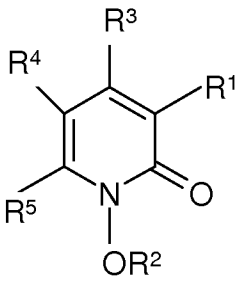
11. **(Previously presented)** A method for the treatment of skin microcirculatory disorder (SMD) comprising locally applying to a mammal in need thereof of a therapeutically effective amount of hydroxypyridonone compound of formulae (I-III):



(I)



(II)



(III)

wherein

R^1 represents a (C_1-C_{10})- alkyl, (C_1-C_{10})-alkenyl, (C_1-C_{10})-alkoxy, (C_1-C_{10}) hydroxyalkyl, (C_5-C_{12}) -aralkyl, (C_3-C_{12})-cycloalkyl, (C_1-C_8)- carboalkoxy or (C_1-C_8)- carbamyl, or a (C_{10}-C_{30})-peptide or a (C_3-C_6) polyol or monosaccharide;

R^2 represents an hydrogen atom or a linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated (C_1-C_{22})-acyl, optionally substituted by (C_1-C_8)-alkoxy, carboxy, (C_1-C_8) alkoxycarbonyl, amino, hydroxy, said amino and hydroxy being optionally (C_1-C_{22})-acylated or - alkylated;

R^3, R^4 and R^5, each individually, represent a hydrogen atom, or (C_1-C_{10})-alkyl, (C_1-C_{10})- alkenyl, (C_1-C_{10})-alkoxy, (C_5-C_{12} aryl) alkyl, (C_5-C_{12})-cycloalkyl, (C_1-C_8 carbo)-alkoxy or (C_1-C_8)-carbamyl group;

with the proviso that both R^1 and R^3 are not hydrogen;

or a dermatologically/cosmetically acceptable salt thereof

in admixture with a dermatologically/cosmetically acceptable carrier.

12. **(Previosly presented)** A method according to claim 11, for the treatment of rosacea, cutaneous vasculitis, or actinic purpura.

13. **(Previously presented)** A method according to Claim 11, for the treatment of itching purpura, purpura annularis telangiectodes or contact allergy skin capillaritis.

14. **(Previously presented)** A method according to Claim 11, for the treatment of traumatic skin haemorrhage or actinic purpura.

15. (**Withdrawn**) A method according to claim 11, wherein R^2, R^3, R^4 and R^5, each individually, represent a hydrogen atom.

16. (**Previously presented**) A method according to claim 11, wherein R^1 and R^3 each individually, represent (C_1-C_4)- alkyl, hydroxyalkyl or alkoxy.

17. (**Withdrawn**) A method according to claim 11, wherein said R^2 acyl group is formed by unbranched, naturally occurring caprylic acid, cupric acid, lauric acid, myristic acid, palmitic acid, palmitoleic acid, stearic acid, oleic acid, vaccenic, linoleic acid, alpha-linolenic acid, eleostearic, delta-linolenic acid, gondoic acid, dihomo-y-linolenic acid, arachidonic acid, eicosapentaenoic acid, docosenoic acid, docosatekaenoic acid, docosapentaenoic acid, docosapentaenoic, docosahexacuoic acid, nervonic or a mixture thereof.

18. (**Withdrawn**) A method according to claim 11, wherein said R^2 acyl is a C_{1-8} which is branched at the carbon atom adjacent to the carbonyl group.

19. (**Previously presented**) A method according to claim 11, wherein said hydroxypyridonone is 1, 2 dimethyl-3-hydroxy-4-pyridinone (deferiprone); 1,2-diethyl-3- hydroxy- 4-pyridinone; 1-methyl-2-ethyl-3-hydroxy-4-pyridinone or 1-methyl-2-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-3-hydroxy-4-pyridinone.